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EDITORIAL COMMENT



THE CONVENTION AT PORTLAND

THE meetings of the Convention of Charities at Portland, Ore., were carried out according to the programmes previously announced, the opening sermon being preached on Sunday evening, July 16, the order of exercises during the week being section meeting at nine in the mornings, with general sessions at ten every day and at eight in the evenings.

Every afternoon some entertainment was provided, or the guests were left free to visit the Fair or points of interest about the city.

The visiting nurses held three meetings, two section meetings and one general session having been scheduled. At the section meetings Miss Fulmer, of Chicago, presided over one, Miss Johnston, of Cleveland, the other, and at the general session, which closed the exercises of the convention, Miss Hitchcock, of New York, occupied the chair.

The papers read were exceptionally fine in character. They were all practical and definite, with that dignity, clearness, and simplicity of expression which is characteristic of the trained worker. The idea that developed and took definite form during the meetings, as brought out in the papers and in the discussions, in which charity workers as well as nurses took part, was that the district or visiting nurse must be something more than a paid employé of a charity organization to go into the home to care for the sick; that she must embody with her definite nursing work the knowledge and experience of a trained social worker, coöperating with all of the various agencies in the field for the betterment of the condition of the poor, and that for this broader work she must have special preparation.

Much of the discussion was with reference to the facilities now available for the nurse to acquire this special knowledge, and whether

or not instruction along these lines should be included in the curriculum of training-schools or be post-graduate in character and a specialty. Courses in the schools of philanthropy of New York, Boston, and Chicago were advocated when possible, but the question of the advisability of attempting to teach district nursing during hospital training was left an open question, very much in the same manner that the subject was dealt with at the nurses' convention in Washington. There is much to be said on both sides, but as yet the experiments are too few to judge of results.

The meetings of the Visiting Nursing Section were not largely attended by the nurses of Portland, probably owing to the fact that the programme had not been laid before them early enough for them to arrange to be present, and it was somewhat unfortunate that the subject was presented at the general session at the closing meeting of the convention, when many members had already left for home and there was practically no time for discussion, but to those who attended the occasion, taken as a whole, was most interesting and instructive.

There were so many section meetings being held at the same hour, on so many different and absorbing subjects, many of which were in direct relation to the care of the sick, that one was conscious while listening to one set of speakers of losing an equally interesting meeting in the next room, from which murmurings and applause could be faintly heard.

This arrangement of section meetings, while it has many advantages, seems to us wonderfully like being seated before a temptingly spread table and being allowed to partake of food from one dish only.

The charming hospitality of the Portland people was a feature of the convention long to be remembered. The Lewis and Clarke Exposition had a strong rival in the beautiful city with its wealth of flowers and background of stately pines, with the majestic snow-capped mountains towering in the distance. The trip up the Columbia must be taken to be appreciated, and to the visitors who had crossed from the Atlantic to the Pacific Slope seemed to combine all the glories of water and mountains that one had passed on the way.

The nurses were the guests for an afternoon of the Oregon State Nurses' Association, the occasion being a picnic at Vancouver Barracks. The trip was made by boat up the Willamette River to the junction of the Columbia, where the party landed and enjoyed a most charming walk into the woods and a delightful collation under the superb trees before returning by trolley to the city. It is from this point, at the junction of the rivers, that one gets the most commanding view of the snow-capped mountains—Hood, St. Helen's, Adams, and Rainier—

towering like sentinels above the horizon. During the week the nurses received many courtesies, among them being a delightful tally-ho ride about the city, when they were the guests of Miss Hardy, the superintendent of Dr. Coffey's private hospital and a graduate of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.

Beautiful grounds are a feature of all hospitals in Portland; towering trees, shrubs, and flowers seem to be considered necessary for the recovery of the patients.

Tea with Miss Loverage, the superintendent of the Good Samaritan Hospital, served in a tiny grove of forest trees still standing in the hospital grounds, was one of the informal social occasions which we shall have to remember.

The Samaritan is the large general hospital of the city, an old wooden building now being gradually replaced by a modern brick structure. The other general hospital, St. Vincent's, we were unable to visit. The situation is most commanding and attractive.

THE MEETING IN CALIFORNIA

KNOWING that a number of nurses from the East were to attend the Conference of Charities in Portland, the California nurses postponed their second annual State meeting until August 1 and 2, when some of the Portland party were to be in San Francisco.

Miss Hitchcock and Miss Rogers, of New York, Miss Dart and Miss Cole, of Boston, and the Editor were the favored guests and were royally entertained by the California members. The Editor found herself established in a charming suite of rooms at the Hotel St. Francis, the new hotel of which San Francisco is so proud, where as the guest of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* she enjoyed every comfort that heart could wish.

This visit to San Francisco, after an interval of twenty-six years, has been one of peculiar interest to the Editor, who as a young nurse newly graduated spent two years on the Pacific Coast before nurses were being trained in Western hospitals and before any other nurse from the East had ventured to cross the Rockies. Upon her return she was met by a host of friends and was welcomed back to her old hunting-grounds with a warmth and cordiality most inspiring. It was hard for her to realize that within her own active life such wonderful developments and transformations could take place in any one section of the country.

The meetings of the California State Nurses' Association, lasting two days, included a most interesting programme, which had been pre-

pared with great and painstaking care. First, a morning session of the usual formal exercises opened the meetings, then followed papers and discussions; the afternoon and evening were devoted to the routine business of the society, during which time the constitution and by-laws were formally adopted and the decision was made to raise the dues of membership to include the subscription to the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*—a step so wise that we are almost envious of the progressive spirit of the West.

The second day's programme was quite original in its scope: First, a clinic was given by Dr. W. J. Terry with Miss F. M. Holsclaw and her nurses of the Waldeck Hospital to demonstrate the aseptic technique of a modern operating-room. Dr. Terry first gave an interesting talk on the whole broad subject of the operating-room technique as it relates to the work of the nurse, and Miss Holsclaw explained some of the special processes—like the preparation of catgut, for instance. When all was ready the operation of amputation of the thigh was performed, each step being explained with special reference to the asepsis by Dr. Terry or Miss Holsclaw. More than five hundred nurses filled the amphitheatre to overflowing.

As this demonstration was given in the Lane Hospital and Miss Holsclaw and her nurses were from the Waldeck Hospital, their work was doubly commendable from the fact that it was done in unfamiliar surroundings. The technique was most perfect and the demonstration exceedingly instructive, especially to nurses who had been out of hospital practice for a long time.

In the afternoon a series of demonstrations were given by the pupils of the different training-schools in San Francisco and Oakland. We regret that we cannot give space to a full description of this session, but would refer those who are looking for practical suggestions for programmes on this order to the September issue of the *Pacific Journal*, which gives the report in detail.

Another interesting feature of these meetings was an exhibit prepared most carefully and open during the two days of the meeting in an adjoining room, where instruments and appliances were exhibited by local and other firms of such character as were of special interest to the nursing profession. Special articles of food, clothing, instruments, and appliances were introduced in this exhibit and such were most attractively arranged.

The crowning event of the meetings was a dinner at the Hotel St. Francis, at which about two hundred nurses were present, and upon which occasion the nurses from the East already mentioned were the guests of honor.

Dr. Helen Criswell was the toastmistress. This was without exception the most beautiful dinner we have ever attended. The banquet hall of the St. Francis is most artistic, the decorations of crimson, gold, and white making a beautiful background for the tables, which were decorated with a most beautiful variety of crimson roses.

There were some exceedingly able speeches made at this dinner by the California members, and the Editor had it borne in upon her in reviewing the meetings as a whole that the East must look sharply to its laurels if it expects to keep the leadership in nursing affairs.

The social events of the week, at which Miss Hitchcock and the Editor were the special guests, the other Eastern nurses having left the city, were many and interesting. The reception at the Children's Hospital, lunch at the Waldeck, and the evening with the Alameda County nurses at the Fabiola Nurses' Home in Oakland were among the more formal of these occasions, while courtesies of a more personal character were simply showered upon the guests.

In her travels on the Pacific Coast the Editor has been more than gratified to find the *JOURNAL* a household word among nurses, and their expressions of appreciation of what its publishers are endeavoring to do for the profession has been one of the very satisfactory features of a delightful summer.

There is no East or West any longer in nursing. We are one great profession which recognizes no boundaries. While it is true that the foundation of our organized life was laid in the East, the West has builded so securely upon it that no one can recognize a dividing line, and all carry forward the work together.

"THE TRIUMPH OF REASON"

THE campaign of the organized English nurses for State registration, now suspended during the summer vacation, has been dramatic beyond any similar experience of nurses in its succession of exciting events. While the leaders rest for a short month, they may well survey with satisfaction the progress made, and American nurses, who have only in the past few years come to follow with personal interest the English nursing affairs, may be reminded that the present acute crisis in England is but the culmination of a long-continued struggle, and that the registration question began in England in 1887, before any American organizations existed, when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, with a group of matrons and prominent nurses, founded the Royal British Nurses' Association to work for registration and to improve the condition of nurses.

At that time English nursing conditions were much like those of Germany twenty years ago. The time of training was generally fixed at one year, nurses bound themselves to their training-schools for a term of years, and private duty independently of the schools was practically non-existent. Private nurses hired themselves for a salary and their living to their institutions, were worked hard, and in old age and ill-health had often no refuge but the poor-house.

In planting the seed of organization Mrs. Fenwick did for nurses and their work the greatest service that has been done them since Miss Nightingale took nursing out of the hands of the disreputable and placed it upon a scientific basis. Even Miss Nightingale encountered opposition in her day, though her career was one that appealed preëminently to the sympathies and imagination of the public. To realize fully the virulence of the opposition to Mrs. Fenwick's long work for self-governing organization and higher professional education it must be remembered what bitter opposition always springs up to meet the pioneers in this path in countries where long-established prejudices, privileges, social distinctions, and provincial feelings are strong forces. The idea she stood for was a new one to her contemporaries—that of *justice* instead of charity to workers—an idea that blooms spontaneously only in a few minds, and in many never even sprouts. Justice is an irritating proposition as opposed to sentimentality. True, many nurses were helpless, destitute, dependent, but that gave people an opportunity to be benevolent, and Mr. Henry Burdett got up a pension fund for them (incidentally a title for himself) and talked about "spinsteries," which were to be respectable almshouses for aged and indigent nurses.

The one year's training soon proved not enough, and Mrs. Fenwick advocated three, ultimately bringing it about by the coördinated strength of the membership of the R. B. N. A. and its admission requirement. But improved education for women has always had to fight for the right to live on the earth. Most odious of all was her insistence upon obtaining justice by *organization*. The very word is hateful to the true British individualist, for it suggests that he may be made to pull in harness with other people when he does not want to. Then, organization makes wage-earning people uppish and they make demands. And people who work must remain humble, and nurses must be subordinate to their matrons, and women must be subordinate to men, and persons of lower quality must be submissive to those of higher degree. Like a fresh, strong breeze blew the new ideas through the old, and those who were blown aside have never forgiven the breeze to this day. To prevent their gaining headway a group of conservative physicians usurped the control of the R. B. N. A. and closed the door upon nurses who dared

to make themselves heard. A lay commercial journal, *The Hospital*, denounced the nurses' organization and called its members "the scum of the nursing profession."

To have a means of expression and of propaganda Mrs. Fenwick established the *Nursing Record*, now the *British Journal of Nursing*, wherein to this day she has advocated progressive education, organization, and registration with an ardor and denounced all reactionary forces with a fearlessness all her own. But for this journal it is probable that the aspect of nursing affairs in more countries than England would have been very different from what it is to-day, and general progress greatly delayed. In maintaining it against all odds for the sole purpose of standing for reforms for which no one else could or would sacrifice all their time, money, and strength she has done the nursing profession of all countries an inestimable service. The inquiry made by Parliament years ago into the conditions of the great hospitals and their nursing services was the result of her initiative. This inquiry, which set the date for much training-school house-cleaning and put an end to many bad old customs imported from who knows where, caused animosities which have endured to this day, because in countries of small size people cannot get far enough away from one another to forget.

The aims of the R. B. N. A. being for the time defeated, three years ago Mrs. Fenwick established the Society for State Registration to do the work the R. B. N. A. had failed to do. The general panic that ensued is fresh in our readers' minds and was a speaking testimonial to the formidableness of the movement, now supported by hundreds of nurses in close and intelligent organization. An earthquake shook the R. B. N. A., and after the State Society had advanced in masterly fashion with a registration bill to Parliament the R. B. N. A. astonished everyone by presenting another. The nurse-members had asserted themselves, and the ruins of discredited officers fell around. A period of blockade now seemed imminent, and the State Society made its next masterly move in petitioning Parliament for an inquiry into the whole nursing question. The appointment of this committee marked another great victory, for under the full light of publicity legal status must eventually result. The importance of this victory may be estimated by the next panic that ensued—that of the attempt to create an arbitrary and unnamed body of control for the nursing profession under the ægis of the Board of Trade. This strange proceeding, which was carried on absolutely without the knowledge of the organized nurses of Great Britain, in such secrecy that it might almost be said to have resembled a plot, was most fortunately exposed in time to defeat it by the *British Journal of Nursing*, and all of our readers remember the explosion of

righteous indignation which followed, and the splendid lining up of organized nurses, with the equally fine support given them by the medical societies. We do not know, and probably never shall, the true inner history of this ill-fated attempt. Who the actual originators, what their motives, and what their anticipations are matters only of surmise, as their names were steadfastly withheld.

The collapse of this last undermining attempt, and the report of the Select Committee in favor of registration by the State and recommending the creation of a Central Body upon which nurses shall have a large representation leaves the registration party, which includes every self-governing local association of nurses in Great Britain, in complete possession of the long-contested ground.

The overwhelming mass of testimony for registration has been so strong and convincing, and the opposition arguments so sparse and puerile, that one could have felt no doubt of the result had not one realized the strength of a subtle, intangible resistance—that of prejudice. Well may the *British Journal* call the report of the Select Committee “The Triumph of Reason.”

POST-GRADUATE WORK

ONE of the crying needs of nurses which is heard from all sides is for opportunities to do post-graduate work.

The JOURNAL is in constant receipt of letters asking for aid and advice on the subject, which the acting Editor must confess to be entirely unable to answer satisfactorily.

Beyond a very few schools which officially announce their willingness to receive post-graduates we cannot advise. It has been suggested that if all training-schools for nurses in the United States which open their doors for such work would signify it to the JOURNAL, schools and graduates may be brought into touch with one another. The time has come, and will not be put off, when our larger and better-equipped schools must follow the example of other professions and give this opportunity to the eager graduate. It will add greatly to the cares of the already overworked superintendent, but somehow and in some way the problem will be solved, as the three-years' course, the preliminary course, and State registration are being worked out.

One of the things to be borne in mind is that time, much time, is always needed to effect radical changes, and good post-graduate courses will not appear because a wand is waved, but because a few good superintendents will toil and labor together, making many plans which will

be tried, done over, modified, and perhaps abandoned and a new start made.

Doubtless in five years we will have splendid courses in various quarters, but what can we do for the clamoring ones *now*?

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

THE Iowa bill for State registration was not passed.

The Rhode Island State registration bill was in the hands of the Judiciary Committee when the Legislature adjourned.

The Oregon State Nurses' Association is in the process of organization, having a charter membership of sixty-five members, but as yet the society is not sufficiently formed to consider any steps for legislation.

The following is the Connecticut bill enacted by the General Assembly July 1, 1905:

"AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING OF THE SICK.

"GENERAL ASSEMBLY, January Session, A.D. 1905.

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:*

"SECTION 1. From and after July 1, 1905, there shall be a Board of Examination and Registration of nurses, composed of five members appointed by the Governor, and all vacancies in said board shall be filled by the Governor in like manner. The members of said board shall be residents of the State of Connecticut and shall be practical nurses, each of whom shall be a graduate of a training-school for nurses which gives a two-years' course in a general hospital, and shall have had at least eight-years' experience in professional nursing of the sick. Each member shall be appointed for a term of three years from the date when the appointment shall take effect, except those first appointed, who shall serve as follows: one for one year, two for two years, and two for three years from the date their appointments take effect respectively, and except a person appointed to fill a vacancy, who shall be appointed for the unexpired term.

"SEC. 2. Said board shall, at the first meeting thereof and at the annual meeting, which shall be held on the first Wednesday in June, 1906, and on the first Wednesday in June in each year thereafter, elect from its own number a president and a secretary, who shall also be treasurer. Said board may adopt a seal, and may adopt such by-laws, rules, and regulations for the transaction of the business of the board and the government and management of its affairs, not inconsistent with the laws of this State and of the United States, as it may deem expedient. Three members of said board shall constitute a quorum, and special meetings shall be called upon request of any two members. On

request of said board the Comptroller shall provide a suitable room in the Capitol for its meetings.

"SEC. 3. The members of said board shall receive their actual necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties and the secretary shall receive a salary to be fixed by the board, not to exceed one hundred dollars per year. Said expenses and said salary shall be paid out of the receipts of said board as hereinafter specified.

"SEC. 4. At a meeting of said board to be held within sixty days after the appointment of the members thereof, and at the annual meeting in each year thereafter and at such special meetings as said board may deem necessary to hold for that purpose, notice of each of which meetings shall be given by publication in such newspapers as the board may determine at least one month previous to such meetings, said board shall examine all applicants for registration under the provisions of this act to determine their qualifications for the efficient nursing of the sick. Any person twenty-one years of age or over and of good moral character who shall show to the satisfaction of the board that he or she is a graduate of a training-school for nurses which gives a two-years' course in a public or private hospital where medical, surgical, and obstetrical cases are received and treated, or has had such experience as said board shall find to be equivalent thereto, shall be eligible for such examination upon payment of a fee of five dollars, to be deposited upon the filing of the application for examination. Said examination shall include the subjects of elementary anatomy and physiology, medical, surgical, and obstetrical nursing, dietetics, and home sanitation. If such applicant shall pass said examination to the satisfaction of the board, said board shall issue a certificate of registration to said applicant.

"SEC. 5. Any person twenty-one years of age or over and of good moral character, applying for registration within two years from the passage of this act, and who shall, by affidavit or otherwise, show to the satisfaction of the board that he or she is a graduate of a training-school for nurses which gives a two-years' course in a public or private hospital where medical, surgical, and obstetrical cases are received and treated, or that he or she was, at the passage of this act, a student in such training-school for nurses and afterwards was graduated therefrom, or has had such other experience as said board shall find to be equivalent thereto, shall be eligible for registration without examination upon payment of a fee of five dollars.

"SEC. 6. Said board may cancel the registration of any person who has been convicted of any felony, or of any crime or misdemeanor in the practice of the profession of nursing.

"SEC. 7. It shall be unlawful, after two years from the passage of this act, for any person to practise professional nursing in this State as a registered nurse without having a certificate of registration. A nurse who has received such certificate shall be styled and known as a 'Registered Nurse,' and no other person shall assume such title, or use the abbreviation 'R. N.' or any other words, letters, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is such a registered nurse. Every person who shall violate any provision of this act, or who shall wilfully make false representation to said board in applying for a certificate of regis-

tration, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars; *provided*, that nothing in this act shall be held to apply to the acts of any person nursing the sick who does not represent himself or herself to be a registered nurse. The board shall cause to be presented to the proper prosecuting officer evidence of any violation of the provisions of this act and may incur any necessary expenses in the performance of this duty, said expenses to be paid out of the receipts of said board.

"SEC. 8. All fees collected by said board under the provisions of this act shall be paid to the secretary of the board, and said secretary shall pay from the moneys so received the salary of said secretary and the necessary expenses of the members as provided in section three of this act, also for books, stationery, and other necessary expenses of the board; *provided*, that said board shall create or incur no expense exceeding the sum received from time to time as fees under the provisions of this act. The secretary shall keep an account of all moneys received and expended as aforesaid and shall render a detailed statement thereof to the Comptroller on or before July first in each year.

"SEC. 9. This act shall take effect from its passage."

We regret that space forbids taking up the veto of the Governor of Illinois in detail, but the summary of his conclusions reads as follows:

"Under the provisions of this bill a large number of the best qualified nurses in the State, from long experience, who are not graduate nurses now in practice, cannot under any circumstances obtain a certificate entitling them to practise as registered nurses until they are graduates of a reputable training-school connected with a general hospital or special hospital.

"On account of the contradictory and ambiguous provisions of this bill, as well as the hardships it would impose, as appears from the analysis of its provisions here given, the same is returned without my approval."

We confess ourselves as unable to see wherein the bill is contradictory or ambiguous. Section 7 of the bill reads:

"SEC. 7. This act shall not be construed to affect or apply to the gratuitous nursing of the sick by friends or members of the family, and also it shall not apply to any person nursing the sick for hire but who does not in any way assume to be a registered nurse."

Quoting from the report of the chairman of the Legislative Committee:

"We learned en route from a representative who is a staunch friend of our measure that opposition of an entirely different nature than any we had confronted was to be reckoned with; opposition which, however, we could not very well attack and hold to the ethical principles which we had tried to follow throughout our work.

"So we simply continued the work of trying to get satisfactory

evidence to the Governor that no religious element had ever entered into the framing of our bill.

"From all our interviews with the Governor we had come to feel that was his only fear in our measure.

"On Tuesday, April 25, we had a hearing before the Committee on License, and, as is the usual courtesy extended lobbyists, were permitted to present our measure and to state what were its salient points and its true object.

"The opposition having again aimed at the strength of our bill, in the interval between our visits to Springfield on April 20 and on April 23, was also to have a hearing before the License Committee, as too was a delegation of German Lutheran clergymen who had come to us with an amendment on Monday evening. *Had this later amendment been conceded, we would have aided in legalizing a poorer status for schools than we now have with our unwritten law for standard for nurses' training-schools.*" (Italics are ours.)

"These men were all to have their hearing the day following the one upon which we had ours, and we were told that it would not be necessary for us to be present at that time. This bit of advice we did not heed, and were consequently able to correct several assertions which were made. The voting showed seventeen in the affirmative and one in the negative that our bill be referred to second reading.

"The second reading was given on Thursday and the third reading on Friday. The bill was sent to the Governor, having received one hundred and eleven favorable votes in the House.

"But the tenth hour the bill received the Governor's veto."

It is significant that in neither instance has the registration bill in Illinois received any opposition from *nurses*, trained or otherwise, nor from the leading medical men. Quoting from the *Illinois Quarterly*:

"Nurses always have recognized and continue to recognize as their best friends the representative men of the medical profession. This kindly attitude was particularly noticeable in the recent effort for State legislation, and contrasted most agreeably with the action taken by some of the lesser lights, who, not satisfied with criticising the effort of the nursing profession, even went so far as to write to the Governor, requesting his veto."

One of the most valuable workers on the Legislative Committee is not a graduate nurse, but a young woman who for good reasons was unable to finish a course of training. Realizing from experience what State registration would mean to the nurses of Illinois, she has given freely of time, money, and mind to secure it, although she would be debarred from calling herself a registered nurse.

Certainly it would not seem that an extraordinary degree of intelligence was necessary to discern that the Governor of Illinois was more concerned about his constituents' political support than anxious about "the hardships it would impose."

The nurses of Illinois deserve our sympathy, and we devoutly hope their third effort may prove the lucky one.

They did not claim perfection for the bill, but it certainly would have effectively put an end to the quack schools for nurses which seem to thrive on the congenial soil of Chicago.

There seems no other way than to hold on and fight it out.

At a special meeting of the New Jersey State Nurses' Association, held at the Newark City Hospital on Tuesday, June 13, 1905, to discuss proposed amendments to the nurses' bill, it was decided to appoint a committee to canvass the State to obtain all legitimate information concerning the training-schools of the State.

At a meeting of the Board of Examiners of Trained Nurses of North Carolina, held in Greensboro, May 24 and 25, nineteen nurses received certificates as registered nurses.

Governor Hanley, of Indiana, appointed on "The State Board of Registration and Examination of Nurses" the following: Miss Menia Tye, Indianapolis; Miss Edna Humphrey, Crawfordsville; Mrs. Isabella Gerhart, Lafayette; Miss Lizzie Cox, Elizabethtown; Dr. Eva C. Sammons, Indianapolis. Pursuant to his call, the above-mentioned met at his office on May 19 and proceeded to organize by electing Miss Tye president and Dr. Sammons secretary and treasurer. The Board will convene on Monday, November 6, for the examination of credentials and applications for registration.

Application blanks for the Indiana State registration are now ready and may be had by applying to the secretary of the Indiana State Board of Examiners, Miss Eva Sammons, the Maryetta Flats, Indianapolis, Ind. Application for State registration must be made before January 1, 1906, if the applicant wishes to take advantage of the clause in the bill which waives examination.

We have received the combined first and second annual reports of the Maryland State Association of Graduate Nurses, which is a credit to the nurses of Maryland. Aside from the value of the records, the arrangement and typographical appearance are unusually good, and might well serve as a guide for other State associations. We would strongly recommend it as a text-book in the education of Governors, especially calling their attention to the address of the Hon. Henry D. Harlan, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland, and Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University.

A SHAMEFUL RECORD

It is a sorry day when the attractions of that alluring path called selfishness lead us out of sight of the rough and rugged road of duty and loyalty, and we are very loath to acknowledge that our steps have been so numerous that we find difficulty in retracing them, but it is better for us to recognize our devious wanderings and resolutely return to the straight and narrow way than to discover too late that we have lost a goodly heritage.

We ask if it is really true that the nurses of the United States are entirely devoid of any sense of duty to their own country? From Maine to California a chorus of indignant denials will come, and doubtless abuse will be heaped upon the writer's head for making so slanderous an insinuation, but before these denials are written will the readers of the JOURNAL read this statement of a few plain, bald, shameful facts and ponder over their significance?

In March, 1904, the JOURNAL and other nursing publications contained the following:

"ELIGIBLE LIST OF VOLUNTEER NURSES.

"The Surgeon-General has deemed it advisable to open in his office what shall be known as the Eligible List of Volunteer Nurses. The names of acceptable graduate nurses who are willing to serve in time of war or national emergency will constitute this list, and the requirements for enrolment shall be as follows: Applicants must have graduated from a training-school for nurses which gives a thorough professional education, both practical and theoretical, and which requires at least a two-years' residence in an acceptable general hospital of not less than fifty beds. Graduates from special hospitals and from insane asylums and private sanatoria will not be considered unless their training has been supplemented by not less than six months in a large general hospital.

"Application for enrolment must be made to the Surgeon-General, and before being accepted the applicant must submit the following:

"1. A statement of her physical condition filled out in her own handwriting and sworn to before a notary public.

"2. A certificate of her health from at least one reputable physician personally acquainted with the applicant.

"3. The name of her school and date of her graduation.

"4. A certificate concerning the moral, physical, and professional qualifications of the applicant as shown by the records of the hospital must be furnished by the superintendent of the training-school from which the applicant graduated.

"If she was trained under a former superintendent of nurses, her endorsement is also desirable. Blanks for these purposes will be furnished by the Surgeon-General.

"Approved candidates will be placed on the eligible list for appointment in event of war or national calamity.

"Each nurse must agree to enter active service as she may be needed in time of war or national calamity. On the first of January and the first of July of every year she shall report to the Surgeon-General, giving her address and enclosing a certificate from some reputable physician showing the condition of her health at that time.

"When called into active service these nurses will be subject to all established rules and regulations and will receive the pay and allowances of nurses of the Army Nurse Corps as set forth in General Orders No. 54, War Department, November 16, 1903.

"DITA H. KINNEY,
"Superintendent Army Nurse Corps."

The same number of the JOURNAL contains the following editorial comment:

"We call the attention of our readers to an announcement in the official reports of the formation of an emergency corps of volunteer nurses who shall hold themselves in readiness to serve the Government in event of war or national calamity.

Mrs. Kinney has issued a circular letter to the superintendents of approved training-schools asking for their coöperation in securing a representative body of women for this department of the service.

"With ample time to investigate credentials many unfortunate mistakes arising from the emergency of war should be entirely avoided. Splendid women served in the Spanish War, conducting themselves with dignity and proving that women can endure hardship under any condition as well as men, but there were too many of the adventuress class enrolled, and many before untried in temptation failed in the moral qualities. Superintendents who may be called upon to endorse applicants for this service cannot be too rigid in their refusal to vouch for nurses unless they are sure of the womanly qualities as well as the professional. Under the plan that the Nurse Corps has organized this work, if *politics* can be kept out, it will be 'up to' the superintendents if the wrong kind of women are enrolled for emergency service in the army."

Six months later the JOURNAL contained an editorial, "Can the Trained Nurses of this Country be Lacking in Patriotism?" This is too long to be given entire, but its substance is that the superintendents "heartily endorsed the plan and promised every possible assistance. The superintendents surely did their duty, some sending lists of their best graduates while others referred the matter to the alumnae associations. To all those whose names were sent in blanks were forwarded as promptly as possible. Whether there could have been anything in these which was not understood by the nurses is not known. It is known, however, that the blanks were identical with those approved by the

Surgeon-General and which are in use for applicants to the Army Nurse Corps. Incredible as it may seem, out of all the blanks sent only *six* have been returned during the six months which have intervened."

Another year is drawing to a close, and at the beginning of August the "Eligible List of Volunteer Nurses" stands, since the first appeal in March, 1904: number of applications for blanks, one hundred and seventy-four. Of these there have been returned forty-two; not recommended by her superintendent, one; total number on the list, forty-one. Of these the number who have been or who are at present in the army are eighteen, thus leaving the number of outside graduates on the list as twenty-three. If this means anything, it means that only *forty-one* nurses out of over thirty thousand desire to serve their country in its time of need. But we know that if an emergency arose the nurses would rise to meet it, and we would have a repetition of the confusion and dissatisfaction which we were so ready to criticise and rebuke seven years ago simply because we are more selfish than patriotic.

Curiously enough, the ink in the above lines was not yet dry when the letter from the nursing staff of Ancon Hospital, Panama, arrived, and serves to confirm what has already been written.

Our faults are not the faults of nurses alone, for we only reflect the signs of the times and our own people, who love the glare of notoriety and excitement and are fickle and inconstant until misfortune and disaster overtake, when their inborn courage and faithfulness come to the front and save the day. Meanwhile we cry aloud, "How long, O Lord, how long?" with this record of our indifference standing as a public rebuke upon us?

Yellow fever has taken possession of New Orleans, and it would not be surprising if at any moment an emergency might arise requiring hundreds of nurses in the South and possibly at Panama. Shall we leave the forty-one to meet it alone while we sit safely at home with the Panama officer who believed that "He who runs away will live to fight another day," waiting for the precipitation of that tragic chaos which will inevitably follow? .

It is for the nurses of the nation to answer this question.

